

By Kevin Pozzi and Elaura Rifkin

The opportunity and expectation to create a welcoming, safe environment for students of any ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation should be a universally supported, non-partisan concept. Congressman Blumenauer is a proud cosponsor of the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which was recently introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez.

As a condition of receiving future Safe Schools funding, the Safe Schools Improvement Act would require schools and districts to ensure that their codes of conduct specifically prohibit bullying and harassment and would require states to include bullying and harassment data in their state-wide reporting. The legislation would also allow schools to train faculty and staff on how to prevent bullying and address it effectively when it does occur.

Oregon has similar legislation that could serve as a model for implementation at the federal level.

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